

# James

## (2) The path to maturity

*James 1:2-8: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. NIV*

### The testing of your faith...1:1-3

Reminder: To whom is James addressing this letter? 1:1

**To virtually the whole church at that time, the 12 tribes (Jews) scattered among nations.**

What's one significance of "whenever..." in 1:2? Jn.16:33; Acts 14:22

**It's when, not if! You will, as a Christian, go through trials. Not health/wealth/happiness.**

During the 'whenever', what is the command of 1:2?

**Consider (count, add up) it all (thoroughly) joy (cheerfulness, calm delight)!**

Of all the reasons why trials are ultimately good for us, what does James emphasize? 1:3, 12

**God's testing of our faith develops perseverance leading to spiritual maturity. Good!**

What are some other benefits of trials? Deut.13:3-4; IICor.12:7; Jn.6:5-6; IICor.4:14-18

**To know our heart; keep us humble; trust Him, not wealth; learning to let go!**

What are (2) more benefits of trials? IICor.12:10; Is.41:10; Lu.22:31-34; IICor.1:3-7

**They make us stronger, spiritually. And they prepare us to comfort others in their trials.**

What is indicated by the words, "...of many kinds"? 1:2; IPet.1:6; etc.

**It means 'multi-colored', variegated. Individual and specific. Like a tapestry.**

What major truth about suffering is revealed by Christ Himself? Heb.5:5-8

**He prayed deeply, with tears, yet learned obedience by His sufferings. Same for us.**

What vital truth about our trials do we need to cherish? ICor.10:13

**God puts boundaries on our trials! He will provide the way of escape (to endure it).**

How can we be sure that our trials will not crush us so that we lose our faith? IITim.2:16-18

**The Lord stands with us, strengthen us, and brings us safely home! Perseverance/security**

### Our goal through our trials...1:4

Not delivered *out of a trial*, what does 1:4 indicate should be our goal?

**To have endurance (perseverance) through the trial. When completed produces maturity.**

When praying *in a trial* what do we often omit? Comment? see Mt.26:39

**It's Ok to pray to be spared from the trial, but ultimately yielding to the Father's will.**

How is this truth taught in Ephesians 6:6?

**We are to do the will of God (even a trial) from the heart. James says, joyfully!**